

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph **0002** with the following rewritten paragraph:

**[0002]** This application is also related to copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/613,917 [~~Docket No. 9005/20~~] entitled "Optical Repeater Employed In An Optical Communication System Having A Modular Dispersion Map," filed on even date herewith.